

Negro Women's Club Work in Oklahoma



MRS. H. P. JACOBSON

President of the Oklahoma State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs
224 East Second Street, Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs was organized in 1910, its principal object being to raise to the highest plane the home, the moral, intellectual and civil life of the race and to cultivate that spirit of general helpfulness, as expressed in its motto, "Lifting as We Climb."

Its first annual meeting was held in the city of Guthrie, August 14, 1911, and showed an enrollment of ten clubs. Today its enrollment has increased to 28 active clubs and three city federations. Last year's reports show nearly \$700 paid out by these clubs for charitable purposes, beside large amounts of food, clothing, fuel and medicine, which were donated by the members.

This organization is promoting work along all lines of educational and civic improvement in many of the cities and towns of the state. Oklahoma City conducts a "Story Hour," where the children in three different sections of the city gather once a week, under competent supervisors for an hour of story-telling, games and song. One club has a day nursery and lunch room for school children. The Civic Improvement association has opened a neighborhood park. It also looks after the Negro portion of the cemetery, beautifying it by planting grass, trees and flowers and furnishing head boards for unmarked graves. A Guthrie club supported a teacher at \$50 per month, and bearing all other expenses. Another club furnished properly chaperoned weekly entertainments for the young people. The work of Excelsior club and its excellent public library is well known.

McAlester and Boley clubs have both established public libraries during the year. Muskogee and El Reno clubs are promoting public libraries, and hospitals. Many clubs all over the state are furnishing playgrounds for the children. They are also helping push the work of the U. S. Agricultural clubs for boys and girls. Oklahoma City Federation has donated \$100 toward the work.

The Mothers' clubs of the state are trying to secure a more general reformation in the homes of the masses, and all are intensely interested in the domestic sciences and arts, self culture, prison reform and the uplift of our boys and girls.

The clubs are helping enforce the child labor and compulsory educational laws, are joining in the war against the spread of tuberculosis and fighting with heart and soul in the "black" slave traffic. They are working to have a Negro history placed in the public school course of study as supplementary reading for colored schools, to have a lecture bureau whereby the most talented men and women of the race may be brought before the masses, and are using every exertion to secure a state training school for incorrigible Negro girls and boys.

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Gentle Hint.

Professional Beggar (in Hardupp's office)—I've been out o' work for over a year, mister, and ain't got the price of a night's lodgin'. Can yer do any thing to help me out?

Hardupp (sardonically)—I'd like to, but I sprained my foot on a collector yesterday.

Cornered.

"That chauffeur was a great disappointment."

"I thought he would be."

"But you gave him a letter of recommendation."

"Of course. And I advise you to do the same. It's the only way to get him to go peaceably."